## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO: 1:21-MJ-00170-KK		
·	)			
Plaintiff,	í	CRIMINAL		
riainciii,	,	CKIMINAL		
	)			
vs.	)	Albuquerque, New Mexico		
	)			
JOE D. CISNEROS,	)	Monday, February 8, 2021		
,	)	<b>-</b> '		
Defendant.	ý	(11:04 a.m. to 12:12 p.m.)		
201011441101	<u> </u>	(		

## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION / DETENTION HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE KIRTAN KHALSA, UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

## APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff: RUMALDO ARMIJO, ESQ.

U.S. Attorney's Office

201 3rd Street NW

Suite 900

Albuquerque, NM 87102

For Defendant: JOE M. ROMERO, JR., ESQ.

Romero & Winder, PC

P.O. Box 25543

Albuquerque, NM 87125

U.S. Pretrial/Probation: S. Day

Court Reporter: Recorded; ABQ-Zoom

Clerk: E. Hernandez

Transcribed By: Exceptional Reporting Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 8365

Corpus Christi, TX 78468

361 949-2988

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording; transcript produced by transcription service.

					2		
1		INDE	<u>x</u>				
2	GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS	DIRECT	CROSS	REDIRECT	RECROSS		
3	BRYAN SANTIAGO-PAGAN	4	20				
4							
5	ARGUMENT RE PROBABLE CAUSE						
6	BY MR. ARMIJO	28/30					
7	BY MR. ROMERO	29					
8							
9	ARGUMENT RE DETENTION						
10	BY MR. ARMIJO	33					
11	BY MR. ROMERO	36					
12							
13	RULINGS						
14	RE PROBABLE CAUSE	32					
15	RE DETENTION	39					
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							

```
4
 1
              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, yes.
 2
              THE COURT: Okay. All right. If the Government
    would call its witness.
 3
              MR. ARMIJO: Yes, we call Officer Bryan Santiago-
 4
 5
    Pagan.
 6
              THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand, sir.
 7
           BRYAN SANTIAGO-PAGAN, GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS, SWORN
              THE CLERK: Okay. Please state your name for the
 8
 9
    record.
10
              THE WITNESS: Bryan Santiago-Pagan.
11
              MR. ARMIJO: May I proceed, Your Honor?
12
              THE COURT:
                          You may.
13
                           DIRECT EXAMINATION
14
    BY MR. ARMIJO:
15
         What is your occupation, sir?
         I work with the 377th Security Force Squadron as a base
16
17
    patrolman.
18
         Okay. And are you law enforcement?
19
        Yes, I am.
20
         And where are you stationed?
21
         At Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
22
         Okay. And what are your duties and responsibilities?
23
         Duties and responsibilities are protect personal property,
24
    enforce traffic enforcement, provide security for most of the
25
    base.
```

```
5
 1
         Okay. And part of your duties include conducting
 2
    investigations as to misdemeanors and felonies?
         Yes, sir.
 3
    Α
         How long have you been in your current position?
 4
 5
         I've been stationed here and working for the Security
    Force Squadron since August 2017.
 6
 7
         All right. Now, in the course of your duties, did you
    have occasion to come in contact with Mr. Joe Cisneros?
         Yes, I did.
10
         And is he appearing by way of Zoom today?
11
        Yes, he is.
12
         And could you please just describe what you observe of him
13
    for the Court?
14
         He's wearing a yellow mask and a brown shirt.
15
         Okay.
16
              MR. ARMIJO: Your Honor, may the record reflect he's
17
    identified Mr. Cisneros?
18
              THE COURT: Any objection?
19
              MR. ROMERO: No, Your Honor.
20
              THE COURT: All right. The record will reflect a
21
    positive identification of the Defendant.
22
    BY MR. ARMIJO:
         Sir, when did you first come into contact with
23
24
    Mr. Cisneros?
25
         I came in contact with him February 2nd, 2021 around 8:28
```

```
6
 1
    p.m.
 2
         Okay. And could you describe that contact to the Court?
               I received a call from our BDOP which is our --
 3
    that's what they call it, 9-1-1. And there was a complaint
 4
 5
    about -- a lot of complaints of a suspicious RV driving around
    the family camp. That's where the RVs usually park at. I got
 6
 7
    this a dispatch and when I was on scene, I got a positive match
 8
    for the RV that was described by the complainant.
 9
              When I made contact, I made contact with Cisneros.
10
    Cisneros was very compliant at first. We asked for license and
11
    base credentials as usual. He provided those and we asked him,
12
    why was he yelling and being loud and driving suspiciously. He
13
    stated that he was being chased by somebody and that they were
14
    throwing stuff at his RV, possibly radio waves or laser waves
15
    towards his vehicle.
16
         All right. Is the RV that you just -- the RV parking lot,
17
    is that located on the Kirtland Air Force Base?
18
         Yes, it is.
19
         Okay. And what did you do after you talked with him and
20
    he stated that they were following him and throwing stuff at
21
    his RV?
22
         I proceeded to go and do a sweep around the area just to
23
    make sure there was nobody around and then my partner, he --
24
    his name was Emory (phonetic) Woods. He proceeded to do some
25
    - take some statements, some information from Mr. Cisneros.
```

food cans out of his RV and on the floor.

25

He was just saying, "Tell them -- they wanted this

the stuff.

```
9
 1
    stuff. So tell them to come pick it up." We didn't know who
 2
    was "them" again but we kept just asking him nicely if he can
 3
    just grab his stuff and put it inside his RV and he complied.
              But he seemed very angry that he had to do it, very
 4
 5
    distraught. We didn't know why again.
         Okay. And then what did you do after that? Did you
 6
 7
    leave?
         Yeah. So after he put everything inside his RV, we asked
    him if he can go back again to his designated spot where the RV
10
    is supposed to be at and I got put on a 15-minute check of the
11
    RV parking place, just the area just to make sure nothing
12
    happens again and --
13
         Is that -- I'm sorry. Is that a 15 -- you said, "a 15-
14
    minute check"?
15
         Yes, 15-minute check.
16
         What is that "15-minute check"?
17
         So it's -- it just -- every time -- every 15 minutes in an
18
    hour. So I go back to the RV parking lot family camp just to
19
    verify that nothing was going on, everything was good. And
20
    after 15 minutes of being there, I can depart for 15 minutes
21
    and come back to 15 minutes. That's -- we do that just in case
22
    there's a constant problem in a certain place just to have a
23
    patrol presence in the area.
24
         Is that called a "wellness check"?
25
         Yes.
```

- 1 | that time?
- 2 A It was Medical and Fire just to -- Fire usually dispatches
- 3 | with Medical at all times. It could -- just because we wanted
- 4 | to check on Mr. Cisneros' well-being and mental health, that's
- 5 | why they got dispatched as well.
- 6 Q And Medical -- describe the Medical team for the Court.
- 7 Is that -- are they Federal employees?
- 8 A Yes, they work for Kirtland Air Force Base. They will
- 9 assist with anything that happens on base as any matter.
- 10 Q All right. And you and all the law enforcement that were
- 11 | there that day were -- are Federal law enforcement; is that
- 12 | correct?
- 13 A Correct.
- 14 Q Okay. Now, describe for the Court what you saw. I think
- 15 | you had said that you had seen Cisneros circling the RV park in
- 16 | his RV. Explain to the Court what happened next.
- 17 A Yes. So he was circling the RV. He stopped at the same
- 18 | area that he had thrown the -- all his belongings to the
- 19 street. He stopped again right there. So I tried to approach
- 20 | him in my vehicle and he said, "Get the F away from me."
- 21 So I immediately waited for backup. That's our usual
- 22 procedure just to make sure that we didn't want to approach by
- 23 | himself and since he seemed agitated, I stand by and waited for
- 24 | my other patrolmen. When they were on the scene, I let
- 25 | Sergeant Spears -- he's my head sergeant. I let him take

- 1 | control of the situation and he went and made contact with --
- 2 tried to make contact with Cisneros and when he tried to make
- 3 | contact, Cisneros told him to get the F away from me. I don't
- 4 | want to talk to nobody.
- 5 And immediately after -- when he saw Medical and
- 6 Fire, the lights and sirens, he became very, very erratic and
- 7 he became to be very agitated saying, "Why you bring them f-ers
- 8 here," just saying things along the lines of that. "You're one
- 9 of them, too," just things like that.
- 10 Q And was he speaking to you and Officer Spears?
- 11 A Yeah, he was speaking to Officer Spears and he tried to
- 12 make contact with him through the RV.
- 13 Q Okay. What happened next?
- 14 A He fled -- he started just driving the RV. When we kind
- of had him in a -- when he was stopped, we kind of tried to
- 16 | walk up to him. He left and he tried to get away when we tried
- 17 | to give him medical care. When -- and then our Officer Woods,
- 18 he goes around and he blocks the parking lot of the RV camp and
- 19 stops the RV from leaving the RV camp.
- 20 Q How did he do that?
- 21 A By using his patrol vehicle as a blockade for the entrance
- 22 of the RV camp.
- 23 Q Were his vehicle lights on?
- 24 A Yes, they were. We all had the lights on.
- 25 Q At any point, was the siren on?

- 1 A Yes, just to initiate -- just so we can -- he can stop, so
- 2 he knows that he can stop.
- 3 Q All right. So now Officer Woods has blocked the exit from
- 4 the RV park. What happened next?
- 5 A We tried to initiate a high-risk traffic stop and tried to
- 6 get him out of the vehicle but it was not working. He was just
- 7 angry and back to telling us to just f-ing move. So our
- 8 | Sergeant Spears, he's negotiator certified. So he tried to
- 9 just kind of calm him down and just get him out of the vehicle
- 10 as safe as possible.
- 11 Again, we were still trying to just provide medical
- 12 | attention for him saying -- and then he walked up and he just
- 13 | was agitated but we -- he did try to calm down. So he lowered
- 14 down his driver's side window about halfway and began speaking
- 15 to Sergeant Spears.
- 16 Q What did he say to Sergeant Spears?
- 17 A "Why did you bring those f-ers here? You're one of them,
- 18 too. Leave me -- I just want to get off of here. I just want
- 19 to leave. Just leave me alone. Move that vehicle in front of
- 20 me."
- 21 And then he was kind of just very agitated. While he
- 22 | was sitting in the driver's side seat, Sergeant Spears, he then
- 23 | got him to calm down a little bit and he turned off his RV all
- 24 | the way. He turned it off. But then he -- I think he started
- 25 talking to himself and then he just became erratic.

- He closed up his driver's side window and just pulled out a screwdriver and just started yelling at us kind of making just flare of movement towards us. "Why you run them here?"
- So our Officer Woods -- he called Lieutenant Woods
  saying, "I want to kill this dude. What are you doing here?
  I'm going to go kill them," just things along the lines of
  that.
- 9 Q Now, did he have the screwdriver in his hand?
- 10 A Yes, he did.

- 11 Q And describe for the Court his motion with the screwdriver
- 12 | and to whom was it directed?

And he was saying stuff.

- 13 A It was directed -- we were all on the driver's side. So
- 14 | it was all kind of directed toward all the officers and past
- 15 him were -- behind us were the Medical. So he was kind of just
- 16 doing this type of motion with the screwdriver and he was
- 17 | saying, "I'm going to get -- I'm going to kill them. Don't let
- 18 them get close to me. I'm going to kill them. Just leave me
- 19 | f-ing alone."
- 20 Q Now, you -- as I'm viewing you, you have your hand -- did
- 21 | he have -- okay. So his hand was closed around the screwdriver
- 22 and he was -- was he punching towards the --
- 23 A Kind of in a throwing motion kind of like --
- 24 Q Okay.
- 25 A -- like in a forward motion kind of.

- 1 Q All right. And he was using that as a -- and he was -- at
- 2 | the same time, did he threaten you or --
- 3 A Yes, he was threatening Officer Woods. I don't know why
- 4 | he targeted Officer Woods specifically but he said, "Lieutenant
- 5 Woods, I'm going to -- don't get any closer to me. I'm going
- 6 to kill him."
- 7 And then he said -- he kind of just looked at Medical
- 8 | staff and started kind of just saying, "Get the f-ing away from
- 9 me. Get them away from me. If they get close, I'm going to
- 10 kill them."
- 11 Q Okay. And what happened after he had made those threats
- 12 | to kill them was thrusting the screwdriver towards him?
- 13 A We -- he went to the back and pulled out about -- a
- 14 | camper's knife. It was about -- a little bit like this size
- 15 and started doing the same thing with the knife.
- 16 At that point, Sergeant Spears -- when he -- when we
- 17 | saw -- when he got up and started just yelling at Sergeant
- 18 | Spears, he backed up and we told -- he told all the officers to
- 19 just clear out of his way and just keep having 360 of security
- 20 on the RV and we didn't try to make entry because, of course,
- 21 he had weapons on him and if he would have -- we didn't want to
- 22 | use lethal. We were still trying to help him out.
- 23 After he backed up, we let him kind of just cool
- 24 down. He was still just yelling, talking to himself. We just
- 25 kind of just let him have his space. After a brief -- after

- 1 | I'd say, like, 25 minutes or 30 minutes, he started making
- 2 dinner or some type of food. He started -- that's when he
- 3 pulled out a kitchen knife and just started kind of cutting
- 4 into a meat and eating.
- 5 After, he just went and sat down on the driver's side
- 6 and just started -- in the driver's seat and just started
- 7 eating.
- 8 Q Okay. And then describe what happened next.
- 9 A Sergeant Spears saw that he was eating and kind of just
- 10 | calmed down. So he re-engaged again and trying to build a
- 11 rapport. So he got up to the driver's side window. He asked
- 12 | if he could roll it down. He did and he started talking to him
- 13 | again saying, hey, like, what's going on? Like, how's your
- 14 | family? What are you eating, just things along the lines. And
- 15 Cisneros was calm.
- 16 Q Okay. And did -- what happened after that?
- 17 A Cisneros -- they were doing a report and then Sergeant
- 18 | Spears, he kind of got really, really just a good rapport, that
- 19 he asked Cisneros to open the door for him because he wanted to
- 20 | see how the door looked like and how it opened. And he --
- 21 Cisneros went and opened the door and we went and kind of
- 22 pulled him out of the vehicle.
- 23 Q Now, before he opened the door, did you observe Cisneros
- 24 do anything inside the RV as regarding the door?
- 25 A No, not exactly.

- 1 | Q Okay. Now, you said that you were -- you went in there to
- 2 | -- I'm trying to make sure I understand your testimony. So
- 3 | when -- eventually Mr. Cisneros, you went in to get him. Could
- 4 you describe what you mean by that?
- 5 A We opened the driver's side door. We kind of grabbed one
- 6 of the hands and kind of pulled him out and he was kind of
- 7 holding on to the steering wheel kind of jamming his legs in
- 8 | the seat or around there. He -- it was real hard to kind of
- 9 | pull him out because -- and eventually the weapons and knife
- 10 was still in the RV and we didn't want him to gain access to it
- 11 again.
- So our safest actually was to pull him out of the RV
- 13 and kind of put him -- detain him and put him in handcuffs. He
- 14 | was kind of struggling to pull him out. He was -- we were
- 15 there for a good 45 minutes trying to get him out of the RV.
- 16 Q And so was he resisting?
- 17 A Yeah, he was resisting, just --
- 18 Q What was he doing with his arms and legs?
- 19 A Moving them around trying to not give it to us so we can
- 20 kind of hold onto his arms and put him in handcuffs was the
- 21 safest for us for officer safety.
- 22 Q Now, eventually what happened?
- 23 A We got him out of the RV. We were trying to, again, put
- 24 | him in handcuffs. He was moving his arms around saying, "You
- 25 | betrayed me. You betrayed me, you mother f-ers," things along

- 1 | the lines of -- especially to Sergeant Spears since he kind of
- 2 | built a rapport to him. He was like, "You betrayed me. You"
- 3 | -- just things along the line.
- 4 And we eventually kind of put him in handcuffs.
- 5 Officer Southards then completed a search on him making sure it
- 6 | was good and then Medical kind of screened him making sure he
- 7 was good.
- 8 Q Okay. Did he have any weapons on him?
- 9 A He did not have any weapons on him.
- 10 Q All right. And now what happened after you arrested him?
- 11 A Medical screened him. Medical said that there was a
- 12 possibility of him being under the influence of narcotics,
- 13 either prescription or nonprescription because of -- according
- 14 to Cisneros, he was a hundred percent disability, PTSD. And we
- 15 kind of thought that that was the reason why the mental -- the
- 16 | reason why he was acting like that talking to himself.
- 17 But she said that it was some type of narcotics maybe
- 18 but she did screen him. She asked him what date it was, where
- 19 | was he at, just based on the lines and he answered everything
- 20 | correctly. And the Medical released him to us. They said that
- 21 he was good.
- 22 Q All right. And so what happened next?
- 23 A I transported him with Southards back into our detention
- 24 | cell. We got all our paperwork done and we had two officers
- 25 transport him to Cibola.

- 1 | Q All right. Now, at some point, did you search the RV?
- 2 A Yes. So we asked him for consent to search the RV because
- 3 of what Medical said. They said that he might be on narcotics
- 4 or something of that. Maybe it was before earlier in the day
- 5 or anything along the lines. So we asked him if he can give us
- 6 consent and he did give consent and we went and we had our K-9
- 7 units search the RV.
- 8 But they -- the K-9 unit -- the actual dog and the
- 9 | handler -- the handler said that it was kind of unsafe for the
- 10 dog to be in there. They said there was a lot of trash and
- 11 torn up stuff. So she put the dog back in the vehicle and she
- 12 | did her own search and she found -- next to the night stand,
- 13 around there, she found a pipe of some sort.
- 14 Q And did you determine that to be a pipe used for
- 15 | narcotics?
- 16 A Yes, it had some type of white substances inside. So
- 17 | that's why we determined that it was narcotics.
- 18 Q All right. And what else did you find pursuant to that
- 19 | search?
- 20 A There was -- the knives, we confiscated the knives. I
- 21 | have them. I believe we have pictures of them -- and a
- 22 | screwdriver.
- 23 Q Okay. Where -- do you remember where those were located
- 24 during the search?
- 25 A They were located in the passenger area. Yeah, I believe

16 BY MR. ROMERO:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

3rd.

- 17 Airman Santiago, I wanted to ask you. Did you draft the
- 18 criminal complaint? I believe it's an eight-paragraph
- 19 complaint that was filed in this case.

MR. ROMERO:

All right. Okay.

20 Yes. Yes, I did.

time, Your Honor.

- 21 Okay. So in that complaint, you made it a point -- it's
- 22 fairly lengthy. You made it a point to include in that
- 23 complaint all of the relevant facts in this case. Is that
- 24 fair?
- 25 They told me to do as much as you can but do kind of

- 1 | briefly because we were going to do -- to include everything
- 2 | but just do it in a brief manner because we are going to do a
- 3 | -- we do our -- the report is about to be completed. We have
- 4 our narrative done and we're going to report it and that
- 5 | narrative has more info than what we can imply in this.
- 6 Q Well, let me ask you. With regard to some of the
- 7 | information in here -- with regard to the allegation that
- 8 Mr. Cisneros was in possession of drug paraphernalia, you never
- 9 | found and no drugs were actually located either in the pipe or
- 10 | anywhere in the RV, correct?
- 11 A We don't have no testers. So that's why we don't know
- 12 exactly what's in there but we do have them confiscated so they
- 13 | can be tested at any time.
- 14 Q Okay. At this time in terms of -- for the sake of the
- 15 judge reviewing the evidence in this case, at this time, you
- 16 have no evidence that there was any narcotics of any kind,
- 17 | either in the pipe -- what you've described as a pipe or any
- 18 other narcotics of any kind -- illegal narcotics in the RV; is
- 19 | that correct?
- 20 A That's correct, sir.
- 21 Q Okay. And with regard to the allegation -- I think you
- 22 | mentioned a screwdriver. If I could direct your attention to
- 23 | Paragraph 6 of your complaint -- and let me know when you're
- 24 there.
- 25 A I'm there.

```
1
         Okay. The -- and I may be mistaken, sir, but the first
 2
    time that I see any reference to a screwdriver is towards the
 3
    middle -- a little below the middle section of your complaint
 4
    and I'm going to quote to you the two sentences that involve
 5
    the screwdriver.
 6
              It says as follows, "When Cisneros saw the exit was
 7
              blocked, he stopped approximately 10 meters short of
              the blocking patrol cars. Cisneros locked all his
 9
              doors and left the engine running. Spears then told
10
              Cisneros to turn the vehicle off and exit the
11
              vehicle. Cisneros, with a screwdriver in hand,
12
              stated, 'Fuck you. Just let me out.'" Correct?
13
         Correct.
14
         Okay. So it doesn't say anything here that he brandished
15
    or threatened anybody with that screwdriver, does it?
16
         Yeah, because that's when he became agitated --
17
         Okay.
18
         -- after that.
19
         Let me ask you that question again, sir. And if you could
20
    just answer my question. It doesn't indicate in your --
21
    anywhere in your complaint and in the quote that I just read to
22
    you that he actually brandished and threatened a specific
23
    airman or anybody from the Mental Health team with that
24
    screwdriver, does it?
25
         In that specific sentence, no --
```

```
1 Q Okay. And --
```

- 2 A -- but it was -- that's right.
- 3 Q Okay. So, in fact, the closest person to him, according
- 4 to that sentence that I just read to you, was at least 10
- 5 | meters or more away from him, right?
- 6 A About, yeah, closer.
- 7 Q Okay. So he wasn't brandishing the screwdriver at anybody
- 8 and the closest person to him when, according to you, he had
- 9 | the screwdriver in hand was at least 10 meters or more away
- 10 | from him, correct?
- 11 MR. ARMIJO: I'm going to object to the form of the
- 12 | question. It misstates the evidence.
- 13 MR. ROMERO: Can you answer the question unless the
- 14 judge wants to --
- 15 **THE COURT:** Do you want to say -- do you have any
- 16 response that you want to make to the objection?
- 17 MR. ROMERO: Your Honor, I think it's relevant. I
- 18 | don't believe I misstated the evidence. I'll re-read the quote
- 19 to the airman if you would like, Your Honor.
- 20 **THE COURT:** Well, the objection was that it misstates
- 21 | the evidence. Of course, the Court's probable cause finding is
- 22 based on the testimony here in court today, not the criminal
- 23 | complaint. I think you've established through your questioning
- 24 | that not all of the facts were included in the criminal
- 25 complaint.

1 But I'm going to sustain the objection because, in 2 fact, the testimony here today was that there were people standing at the door when he was brandishing the screwdriver 3 and so it does misstate the evidence. If you want to -- I 4 5 think you've already established that he didn't talk about 6 brandishing the screwdriver in the criminal complaint though. 7 So why don't you rephrase -- if you have any further questions on that issue, rephrase the question to make it clear 8 9 you're talking about the criminal complaint and not the 10 testimony here today. 11 MR. ROMERO: Okay. 12 THE COURT: But I would suggest you move on. 13 have established that he didn't put all the facts in his 14 criminal complaint but, again, the Court's probable cause 15 finding is based on the testimony in court. Go ahead. 16 MR. ROMERO: All right. I will move on. Thank you, 17 Your Honor. 18 BY MR. ROMERO: 19 Mr. -- oh, I'm sorry. Airman Pagan --20 Yes, sir. 21 -- or Santiago. Them hyphenated last names get to me 22 sometimes. I apologize. 23 Airman Santiago, in regard to the knife that was seen 24 in possession of Mr. Cisneros, you indicated that for at least 25 an hour, he had been talking to and developing a rapport with,

- 1 | I guess, either Sergeant or Airman Spears; is that correct?
- 2 A So he first started talking trying to build a rapport. He
- 3 became very agitated and he broke away because that's when he
- 4 | got up and he started just moving around -- like, the knife --
- 5 | the screwdriver around. So we backed up. We gave him a time
- 6 to relax. He ate -- he cooked, he ate and then we -- Sergeant
- 7 Spears, he got close to the door again and began the -- again,
- 8 tried to build a rapport with him.
- 9 Q Okay. And I think in your testimony here today you said
- 10 | you even observed him cutting meat with a knife --
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 | Q -- during the time that he was cooking; is that correct?
- 13 A Yes, a kitchen knife.
- 14 | Q Okay. And you didn't see him at any time, did you -- and
- 15 | it's not contained in your complaint -- brandishing the knife
- 16 at anybody, did you?
- 17 A He did grab the camper's knife, not the kitchen knife but
- 18 he did not use the kitchen knife to do what you said but the
- 19 | camper's, he did do it.
- 20 Q Okay. I'm sorry. You said there was a different knife
- 21 | from the knife he was cooking with and cutting meat with that
- 22 he later obtained possession of? Is that your testimony here
- 23 today, sir?
- 24 A So there was -- yeah, we have the screwdriver and two
- 25 knives in our possession. We tagged the camper knife and the

- 1 kitchen knife. We have both of them in our BDOP.
- 2 Q Okay. Well, Airman Santiago, you never saw him and it's
- 3 | not contained in your complaint that I can see -- you can
- 4 | correct me if I'm mistaken -- brandishing the camper knife at
- 5 anybody, did you?
- 6 A Yes, he did.
- 7 Q Okay. And is that in your complaint, sir?
- 8 A It's not in my complaint.
- 9 Q Okay. And just, if I could, go back to the screwdriver
- 10 for one second. You're aware, are you not, after either from
- 11 | the time you observed him at the scene or in your subsequent
- 12 inspection of the RV that he used the screwdriver to -- as a
- 13 substitute key to turn on and off the RV? Are you aware of
- 14 | that?
- 15 A We did not see that because we cannot see where the key
- 16 | would be located at because we're -- the RV is too tall. So we
- 17 | wouldn't be able to see that.
- 18 Q Okay. Well, did you verify that afterwards? You have --
- 19 | you found no key to the RV, did you?
- 20 A Not that I know of.
- 21 Q Okay. And you indicated that he informed you and I quess
- 22 that was one of the reasons that you contacted the Mental
- 23 | Health or the Medical team in order to provide services as
- 24 necessary to Mr. Cisneros. He advised you that he's a disabled
- 25 | vet, a hundred percent disabled suffering from PTSD; is that

```
27
 1
    correct?
 2
         He was, yes, sir. He did tell us that.
         And real quickly, when you tried to block the -- I guess,
 3
    the exit from the RV park, he stopped; isn't that right?
 4
 5
         He forcibly stopped, yes.
         Okay. So he didn't plow through there and hit or even
 6
 7
    attempt to hit anybody?
 8
         Yes.
         Correct?
10
         Correct.
         And when you guys finally physically grabbed him to arrest
11
12
    him, he didn't -- he was -- he didn't kick or punch anybody,
13
    did he?
14
         He was swinging his arms around. He could have punched us
15
    but we kind of were kind of trying to contain him. So he kind
16
    of didn't have the opportunity to.
17
    0
         Okay.
18
              MR. ROMERO: Your Honor, that's all the questions I
19
    have.
           Thank you.
20
              THE COURT: Okay. Any redirect?
21
              MR. ARMIJO: No, Your Honor.
22
              THE COURT: All right. Any reason that Airman
23
    Santiago-Pagan can't be excused?
24
              MR. ARMIJO: He may be excused, Your Honor.
25
              THE COURT:
                           All right.
```

```
1
              MR. ROMERO: No objection.
 2
              THE COURT: All right. You are excused. Your
 3
    testimony is complete.
 4
         (Witness is excused)
 5
              THE COURT: Any other witnesses for the Government?
              MR. ARMIJO: No, Your Honor.
 6
 7
              THE COURT: Any witnesses for the Defense?
              MR. ROMERO: No, Your Honor.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. Any arguments by either side
10
    on the question of probable cause?
11
              MR. ARMIJO: Your Honor, very briefly, we've
12
    established probable cause for the charges of assault and
13
    resisting or impeding certain officers or employees.
14
    evidence that was presented to the Court this morning showed
15
    that Mr. Cisneros in an agitated condition used profanity and
16
    threatened them with a screwdriver in his hand in a punching
17
    motion. And then when they tried to gain control of him, he
18
    resisted and otherwise impeded their efforts.
19
              Within the -- after the search of the RV, law
    enforcement located a pipe and in Officer Pagan's opinion, it
20
21
    was narcotics. And, therefore, we've established probable
22
    cause for assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers
23
    and possession of drug paraphernalia. Thank you, Your Honor.
24
              THE COURT: All right. Mr. Romero?
25
    //
```

```
1
              MR. ROMERO: Your Honor, I would respectfully dispute
 2
                   I don't believe that anybody was within a
    both charges.
 3
    distance -- within the appropriate distance to Mr. Cisneros
    where they were in imminent fear of being battered and I don't
 4
    think the evidence has been established with regard to that
 5
 6
    issue.
 7
              I think it's clear, Your Honor, that this was a
    mental health episode by somebody who is a disabled vet
 8
 9
    suffering from PTSD. When he had the actual opportunity to
10
    actually batter or assault somebody, he didn't. He stopped.
11
    He stopped his vehicle.
12
              And with regard to the drug paraphernalia charge, I
13
    would just simply point out, Your Honor, possessing a pipe,
14
    just a pipe, is not a crime and there's no evidence that there
15
    was narcotics in the pipe.
                                 There's no evidence that there was
16
    narcotics in the RV.
17
              So the allegation under State law, I guess, that's
18
    being assimilated into this Federal case is that he possessed
19
    drug paraphernalia and there's just -- not even on a -- I would
20
    contend on a probable-cause standard -- any evidence to justify
    that charge, Your Honor.
21
22
              That's all I have with regard to the probable cause
23
    portion of this hearing.
    //
24
25
    //
```

2

3

4

5

6

7

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

THE COURT: All right. Let me just ask Mr. Armijo. So the way that the criminal complaint was charged, there was a charge under 18, United States Code, Section 111 and then (b) is cited for the enhanced penalty but the actual statement is assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers which appears to be an (a)(1) offense but then also I heard testimony about behavior with regard to medical personnel. So what is the Government proceeding under, 18, United States Code, Section 111(a)(1) and the -- and Subsection (b) on enhanced penalties? MR. ARMIJO: Yes, Your Honor. So the enhanced penalty, the screwdriver, gets us to 18 USC 111(b). I -- this may have been charged on 111(b). I think we need to amend by -- in a delineation (a) and (b) although I haven't really done it like that before. I know the Court may have seen that before but I know we're proceeding on Section 111(b) based on the fact that he had a screwdriver in his hand and then I think there was also testimony that he had a knife in his hand. So I don't mean to confuse things but I think in answer to the Court's question, if we have to amend by interlineation, we would add the (a) but the way it's cited there is 111(b), Your Honor. I mean, that's obvious. But then within the offense THE COURT: Right. description is assaulting, resisting or impeding certain

```
(b) enhancement has to do with the possession of the
 1
 2
    screwdriver which the Government scanned the knife or the just
    the screwdriver?
 3
              MR. ARMIJO: Well, I believe --
 4
 5
              THE COURT: There's testimony about a knife as well.
              MR. ARMIJO: I heard testimony about a knife as well
 6
 7
    and I think that it would be the knife and the screwdriver
 8
    based on what we heard today. And that is correct. 111(a)(1)
    forcibly assaults, resists, imposes, impedes, intimidates and
10
    interferes with the person designated in 114.
11
              So if we could amend the criminal complaint to add
12
    that charge just on the -- for purposes of making sure I
13
    encompass all the possible charges, I would ask permission to
14
    do that.
              THE COURT: Well, and I don't think that the criminal
15
16
    complaint is defective in failing to have (a)(1) but I just
    wanted to make sure that the intent was -- that the (b) was
17
18
    actually intended to charge and does he have penalty because of
19
    the dangerous weapon?
20
              MR. ARMIJO: Yes, Your Honor, that is correct.
21
              THE COURT: Okay. So do you want to amend by
22
    interlineations and include (a) and (b)?
23
              MR. ARMIJO: Yes.
24
              THE COURT: Is that what you're thinking?
25
```

I think I should do that.

I can

Yes.

MR. ARMIJO:

always revisit this later on as I study it a little bit more but I would seek permission to do that at this point.

THE COURT: Mr. Romero, I understand that you object to there being probable cause at all but the Government has moved to amend by interlineation just to reflect more clearly that the area is under 18, United States Code, Section 111(a) and then (b) has to do with the enhanced penalty.

So any objection you want to put on the record to amend that by interlineation other than, obviously, that you object to probable cause as it is?

MR. ROMERO: Your Honor, just to preserve my client's rights if -- I will stand on -- for the record, on an objection to -- obviously, to probable cause as indicated earlier and also for the -- as to the proposed interlineation, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Based on the witness'
testimony, I find probable cause to support the charges in the
criminal complaint and I'm also going to allow the Government
to amend by interlineation just to make clear the assaulting,
resisting or impeding certain officers is a charge brought
pursuant to 18, United States Code, Section 111(a) and (b), (b)
being the statutory enhancement based on the alleged use of a
deadly or dangerous weapon. There was testimony regarding both
the screwdriver and the camper's knife.

All right. Having found probable cause to support the charges and granting the motion to amend by interlineation

- and to reflect both (a) and (b) of 111, let's proceed on to detention.
- 3 Let me hear first from the Government and then I'll 4 hear from Mr. Romero.
  - MR. ARMIJO: Thank you, Your Honor. The Defendant's criminal history as reflected in the Pretrial Service Report indicates several things. Mr. Cisneros has an extensive criminal history which relates to law enforcement.

One of the charges that I find remarkable -- and let me just find it here in the report, Your Honor -- is the -- back in 2004 -- and this is reflected in the report -- he was charged with aggravated assault. Now, the warrant was -- or the warrant was issued in that case and then the case was dismissed with prejudice. I want that noted for the Court. But the point is that he was arrested in 2004 for aggravated assault.

His criminal history also reflects numerous failures to appear. We start in 1987 -- of course, this is a while ago. He had a failure to appear with respect to a case out of El Paso County courthouse, Docket Number 1987-T8794. And in 1993, he had a probation violation with respect to a case, Docket Number 1993-T14987.

Now, obviously, the charges there are operating a vehicle without insurance, failure to display lights and no seatbelts, driving while intoxicated but the point I'm making

is that he violated probation on seemingly small charges or misdemeanor charges.

Then in 1994, he had a probation revocation stemming from an incident out of Colorado. Probation -- that revocation was in '97 and then in '97, there was a failure to appear issued in that case and that's Docket Number 1994-CR1206.

He had another failure to appear and a bench warrant was issued in 1996 for another case out of Colorado at Docket Number 1996-T8663.

He had another failure to appear out of Colorado. Failure to appear in 1997, bench warrant issued and ultimately that case was dismissed. And this was in Docket Number 1997-M6028.

And then he had another failure to appear out of Colorado and in this case a misdemeanor offense. It looks like bicycle equipment violation, no headlight. But he failed to appear on a bench warrant.

So I think what was demonstrated here is some of these charges are misdemeanors, obviously, but he has a disrespect for the Court. He's not appearing when he's supposed to.

He also has some convictions. One -- the most recent that I see here was in 2017. It was possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia and he was found guilty in 2017.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

```
Now, I note that I don't see, other than the
aggravated assault, very much as it relates to dangerousness
but I would argue and I'd agree with the Pretrial Services
Report that getting him in court is going to be a problem if
he's released. Thank you, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: Mr. Romero, let me hear from you. My
concern -- I have a concern, obviously, about mental health
issues and a need for treatment but those issues are not going
to be addressed as adequately in custody as they would in the
community. But I do have a concern about flight risk and
dangerousness and I'm not sure what housing options are
available for the Defendant at this point.
          So, Mr. Cisneros, one thing I'd like to have you
address is -- I know that sometimes there are programs
available for both substance abuse and mental health treatment
through the VA. Sometimes there's housing options.
          I don't know if you've even had time to look into
that but I am concerned about where Mr. Cisneros would live if
I were to release him and also, of course, whether he would
show up and whether he poses a danger to the community given
the offense conduct here and some of the issues that I see in
his criminal history including a history of substance abuse
problems. So go ahead.
//
//
```

25

1 MR. ROMERO: Your Honor, Mr. Cisneros is 59 years 2 I don't think he's a significant flight risk. He's lived his whole life either in -- mostly in Colorado and the last 3 four years in New Mexico. He has a doctor who he treats with 4 5 through the VA in Santa Fe. The name is Jennifer Comeaux (phonetic). I have a call into her but I have not heard back 7 from her. I picked up this case on Friday, Your Honor, as you 8 know. 9 The -- he has lived in New Mexico for the past four 10 years. He's lived in and out of either apartment complexes or 11 his RV, most recently out of his RV. He's -- according to him, 12 he's a hundred percent disabled and receives a Veterans' 13 disability retirement pension. So he does have income. 14 There are various Veterans' programs that we could 15 look into for him but, obviously, I don't think the pretrial 16 detention at Cibola County, as you've kind of alluded to, Your 17 Honor, is a substitute for proper mental health treatment which 18 is obviously based on the description of what the Court heard. 19 With regard to what happened here, basically indicates that we 20 have more of a person who was having a mental health episode as 21 opposed to a person who was intentionally trying to hurt 22 anyone. 23 And he, in fact, didn't hurt anyone. As you heard, 24 there was -- it was this one-hour rapport-building. He actually

I mean, this just does not

was cooking during this timeframe.

indicate somebody I would contend that is a significant risk of danger to the community.

And I also would not -- would argue that he's not a significant or serious flight risk because you can't keep him out of New Mexico or out of Colorado. He's been in those two places other than the time in the military his whole life.

And, Your Honor, as a substitute, what I would recommend is perhaps placement in a halfway house while myself and my paralegal can attempt to get him proper mental health treatment, connect with Dr. Comeaux, his doctor, and I'm told he's on a variety of prescription meds, in particular Wellbutrin for some serious depression PTSD-related condition, Your Honor.

But I think what we have here, honestly, again, in my opinion is detaining somebody because of his mental health condition. I understand the concern of the Government and the concern of this Court.

THE COURT: That would not be a -- if I were to detain him, it wouldn't be because of mental health problems.

MR. ROMERO: No, I understand that, Your Honor, but it's kind of the root cause and all I'm alleging here or stating is that I don't believe he poses a serious risk of danger or a serious risk of flight based on aged either dismissed or subsequently resolved State charges out of Colorado.

2.3

THE COURT: Well, the problem with the halfway house is while it's possible, as you are proffering to the Court, that the episode that gave rise to these charges had to do with mental health issues, it's also possible it had to do with substance abuse. It's unclear but the bottom line is that La Pasada Halfway House is a place where many people reside.

And for whatever reason, the Defendant had the belief that people were chasing him, that things were happening and it doesn't seem -- and then what ended up happening was a two-day ordeal, the last of which we heard testimony about resulted in him brandishing a screwdriver and a weapon at multiple law enforcement officers and then medical personnel trying to help him.

And the problem is that putting him at La Pasada is probably not conducive to his own safety or the safety of the other people there and I don't think that that's necessarily an appropriate placement. And so what I want to know is what type of placement we could have.

It sounds like you just don't -- haven't had enough time to contact his doctor, to talk to his doctor but she might very well say putting him in a closed, ordered halfway house with other residents in a dorm room with him is just not conducive to his need if he has PTSD.

So, I mean, I have real concern about whether

La Pasada would be more of a trigger and would just give rise

to him feeling the need to flee from La Pasada much as he wanted to flee this RV park at a time when he thought people were after him.

MR. ROMERO: Your Honor, he has an RV. He can go to an RV park for a limited period of time until we can get him into a more structured environment. He has the wherewithal based on his pension, I understand, to obtain housing and he's been living peacefully for the most part out of an RV park other than this incident that I'm aware of and that there's any record of -- in an RV park -- different RV parks for the last three to four years.

THE COURT: Okay. So this is what I'm going to do.

Right now based on what I've heard and this Pretrial Services

Report and his criminal history, I don't believe that a halfway house is an appropriate placement for Mr. Cisneros. He poses some risk of flight and danger that may be mitigated by adequate conditions of release that I just haven't heard a -- I haven't heard a plan of release at this point in time that would adequately mitigate a risk of danger and flight that he poses.

I'm going to continue -- I'm going to enter a detention order but I'm going to continue this for a status conference to review conditions of release. I can either continue it until later in the week or I can continue it to sometime next week. And I will -- after I'm done, I'll give

you both an opportunity to weigh in.

But I'm going to ask that Pretrial Services get with Mr. Romero, see what we can figure out about his mental health needs and also whether there are any programs that would be available, whether there is a place that he can reside, either an apartment if you can propose one with more stringent substance abuse and mental health counseling availability which is why I recommended looking into one of these VA programs that might be available.

Sometimes there's even a program -- there are more intensive outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling programs but there are also some housing options although it sounds like he may not need that given that he has an RV.

But what I want you-all to address is whether there is some plan that can be put in place to allow him to reside in the community, not in a halfway house. That's not an appropriate placement based on what I've heard -- and also some more intensive substance abuse evaluation and treatment preferably through the VA.

So, Mr. Romero, it requires a little bit of work on your part to, obviously, get through to this doctor and then figure out what's available through the VA and if not, propose something to the Court. Do you want me to set this for later in the week to review conditions or early next week?

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. ROMERO: I think, Your Honor, to do the due diligence, I would ask for early next week. That would give me time to get together with Pretrial Services. I know Mr. Cisneros did inform me of a program called "VIC." I called them on Friday, Veteran's Integration Center. That's a program he had mentioned to me that I guess he's worked with before. But it's going to take some work between now and the time we can put something together and I don't know -obviously, Mr. Cisneros is not in a position to afford a mental health eval or a substance abuse eval that the Court may be interested in doing and I would have to coordinate that with, perhaps, Pretrial Services. THE COURT: Oh, yeah. No, I'm not suggesting he have that done prior to me considering fashioning conditions. What I'm suggesting is that you look into the availability of that through the VA and this integration program may be something that's offered but either way, I mean, whether -- even if there's not something available through the VA, we can, through Pretrial Services, provide intensive treatment.

But, obviously, going through the VA is better because they address PTSD-related issues for veterans and substance abuse issues specific to veterans with more frequency than some of the treatment programs we have available to people on release.

So that's why I'm suggesting that you go through the

- 1 VA as a first option. But, certainly, if there's -- I just
  2 want to hear a proposal that's not a halfway house because the
  3 halfway house is inappropriate.
  - Mr. Cisneros, just for your understanding here, even if I had granted your attorney's request to release you to a halfway house, you wouldn't be released today because they require a 14-day quarantine period. So you wouldn't be getting out of custody for a couple weeks anyway.
  - What I'm hoping for is that in the meantime between now and early next week, we can come up with some option that would allow me to release you into the community into some sort of structure that will adequately ensure that you show up in court and that the risk of danger is sufficiently reduced.

At this point, I don't have options available. I'm hoping those will become available. If they do between now and next week when we come back to this hearing, then you may very well get released before you would have been released to La Pasada anyway had I granted that request.

So, Ms. Day, will you be the one that Mr. Romero should contact about any proposed release options or is there a different Pretrial -- Probation officer?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you talking to me?

THE COURT: No, I'm talking to Ms. Day.

U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER DAY: Your Honor, his Pretrial Services officer that is coordinating will be Anthony

Carter --

2.3

**THE COURT:** Okay.

U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER DAY: -- and Anthony has already began the process of speaking with a case manager through the VA and staffing with our other officers who are very familiar. And he says -- they say that it will be Mr. Romero that will need to contact the various VA programs.

There is the STAR program and that's for substance abuse. And then there's the PACE program and that's for mental health. And then there's, of course, the other two programs for integration and everything. That's an application and has to be accepted into. So it's a process but, hopefully, we can get him into some type of program.

THE COURT: Okay. And in your experience, if I were to reset this for next Monday or Tuesday, is that sufficient time? I know sometimes things don't move as quickly as we would like but do you think that's sufficient time for Mr. Romero to be able to get the VA to start looking into this issue and maybe get us an answer about program availability?

U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER DAY: We will -definitely within a week. There definitely should be an answer
regarding the availability and possible acceptance and
admission --

THE COURT: Okay. So --

U.S. PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER DAY: -- that will

as well.

Okay. So in the -- presently I'm detaining you because I believe that you pose a risk of flight and a risk of danger to the community that at present I don't have adequate ability to mitigate. We're going to come back for a hearing. I just note that there is a history of substance abuse on your record. Of course, there are many prior failures to appear in court but those are quite old.

There's at least some indication in the criminal history of prior attempts to evade law enforcement and there appear to be at least one prior violation of probation and parole. That said, we'll take this issue up again and I'll review conditions next week.

All right. Anything further at this time?

MR. ROMERO: Yes, Your Honor. If I may, I didn't mean to jump in front of Rumaldo but my -- I just remembered my client is extremely concerned about being able to get his RV back and that's his home essentially and I wanted to see if I could get a phone number or somebody to contact at the base for that, his personal property and his RV. Is that --

MR. SANTIAGO-PAGAN: Yes. So we -- contact Tony in Albuquerque. I can give you the information, like I said to the other attorney.

MR. ROMERO: Okay.

MR. SANTIAGO-PAGAN: And that's where they towed it at. That's where it's at. That's where it's been sitting in

```
46
1
    the -- because somebody towed me. I don't have the information
 2
    right now but I can get that for you.
 3
              MR. ROMERO: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.
                                                          I
    apologize. I just needed to get that information.
 4
 5
              THE COURT: And, Mr. Armijo, if you wouldn't mind
 6
    getting that information from Santiago-Pagan and then giving it
 7
    to Mr. Romero hopefully by the end of today.
 8
              MR. ARMIJO: Yes, Your Honor.
 9
              THE COURT: All right. Anything further from the
10
    Government?
11
              MR. ARMIJO: Nothing further, Your Honor.
12
              THE COURT: Mr. Romero?
13
              MR. ROMERO: No, Your Honor.
14
              THE COURT: All right. Mr. Cisneros, I will see you
    next week at some point to review conditions of release and
15
16
    hopefully we'll hear a plan for release.
17
              Okay. We're in recess on this matter at this time.
18
                           Thank you, Judge.
              MR. ARMIJO:
19
              MR. ROMERO:
                           Thank you, Judge.
20
         (Proceeding adjourned at 1:07 p.m.)
21
22
23
24
25
```

## **CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

sin / Villan

July 23, 2021

Signed

Dated

TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER